ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION and *ENQUIRY*

Concerning Matters

Eccleſiaſtical,

EXHIBITED

To the Miniſters, Church-Wardens and Sidemen of every Pariſh within the Arch-deaconry of

Glouceſter,

In the VISITATION

OF THE

ARCH-DEACON.

LONDON, Printed for *George Dawes* at the Sign of the White Horſe in Chancery Lane near *Lincolns-Inn*. 1664.

The Form of the Oath to be administred to the Church-Wardens and Side-men of every Parish.

YOU shall Swear, That you will faithfully present to all the Articles given you in charge at this VISITATION, according to your best knowledge and ability, *So help you God.*

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Articles of Visitation within the Arch-deaconry of GLOUCESTER.

SECT. 1. Concerning MINISTERS.

I. IS your Parsonage or Vicaridge void of a Minister or Curate?

II. IS your Minister a Priest, or Deacon ordained by a Bishop?

III. HATH your Minister subscribed and declared publickly his unfeigned assent and consent to all things contained and prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer, according to the Act of Uniformity, in the words there set down?

IV. IS your Minister constantly resident upon his Cure?

V. IF your Minister hath a Curate to assist him, is the said Curate in Holy Orders? and is he Licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese?

VI. DOTH your Minister and Curate when either of them do Officiate, read the whole Common-Prayer distinctly and reverently on all Sundayes and Holy-dayes, at Morning and Evening Service: and doth he observe the Orders, Rites and Ceremonies prescribed in that Book of

Common-Prayer, in all Administrations of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Childbirth, Visitation of the Sick, Buriall of the Dead, and pronouncing of Gods commination against Sinners? Doth he read the Letany without addition, diminution, or alteration of the same, or in any part of Divine Service prescribed in the foresaid Book?

VII. DOTH your Minister give notice of the Sacrament, and read the Exhortation prescribed to be read on the Sunday before the day he shall appoint to administer the Sacrament, as it is appointed by the Book of Common-prayer? and doth he admit to the Sacrament any person, that doth not kneel?

VIII. DOTH your Minister or Curate wear a Surplice, and being a Graduate, wear a Hood agreeable to his degree in the celebration of Divine Offices in the Church, or Chappel?

IX. DOTH your Minister preach one Sermon every Sunday, or read an Homily?

X. DOTH your Minister four times in the year at least declare the Kings Majesties power within his Realms to be the highest power under God, to whom all people within the same, owe obedience?

XI. HATH your Minister preached any False, Heretical, or Seditious Doctrine?

XII. HATH your Minister Married any persons in private houses, or any being under the age of twenty one years without the consent of Parents: or without Banes first duly published on three Sundayes or Holy dayes in the Church, unless he had a sufficient Licence or Dispensation so to do?

XIII. DOTH your Minister upon every Sunday and Holyday for some good space before Evening Prayer hear the Youth and ignorant persons of your Parish repeat the Cate-

Catechiſm ſet down in the Book of Common-Prayer, and after the ſecond Leſſon, inſtruct them, and expound to them ſome part of the ſame Catechiſm; doth he labour to reduce Recuſants and Sectaries to the Church?

XIV. DOTH he Baptiſe any perſon without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit any to be Godfathers and Godmothers, who cannot give an account of their Chriſtian Religion according to the Church Catechiſm?

XV. DOTH any Miniſter preach in your Pariſh as a Lecturer without Licenſe from the Biſhop? and doth he before his Lecture read Divine Service according to the Book of Common-Prayer? and is he conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church?

XVI. DOTH your Miniſter, or other Lay-perſon hold any Conventicles, or private Meetings in any Houſes, or other places in your Pariſh?

XVII. IS your Parſon, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer a man of a ſober, honeſt and exemplary life? Is he vehemently ſuſpected, or guilty of any ſcandalous Vice? Is he contentious and ready to ſet neighbours at variance, and to encourage ſuits and contentions?

Sect. 2. Concerning Churches and Chappels with the Ornaments thereto belonging, and alſo Church-yards.

I. IS your Pariſh Church, or Chappell and Chancell kept in ſufficient repair, well covered and roofed, and all things in it, and about it ſo decently ordered as becomes the houſe of God? Are your Steeple and Bells in ſuch order as they ought to be? Is no part of your Church or Chappell converted to profane Uſes?

II. HAVE you a Font of Stone with a convenient cover thereto, ſtanding in a convenient place in the lower part of the Church, for the Adminiſtration of Baptiſm?

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III. IS there in your Chancel a decent Communion Table covered with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen Cloth in time of Divine Service, and another covering of fine white Linnen to spread on it at the administration of the Sacrament? and have you a Plate or Paten, and a fair Communion Cupp or Chalice, with a Cover of Silver, or one or more Flaggons of Silver, or Pewter, set apart for that purpose? and are they used by any to any other common use?

IV. HAVE you in your Church or Chappell a convenient Pew and Desk for your Minister to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit with a comely Cloth and Cushion for the same? A Bible of the last Translation in a large Volume well bound? Have you two Books of Common-prayer of the latest Edition set forth by Authority of this present Parliament? Have you the Books and Forms of Divine Service set forth for the Fifth of November, the Thirtieth of January, and the Twenty ninth of May? Have you also the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority? Have you a Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiasticall? Have you a Printed Table of the Degrees of Consanguinity and Affinity, wherein Marriage is prohibited and void in Law, hang'd in a convenient place in your Church?

V. HAVE you a fair large Surplice, which is to be provided and washed at the charge of the Parish, and which your Minister is to use and wear in the time of Divine Service, and Administration of the Sacraments?

VI. HAVE you a Register Book of Parchment, and are therein Registred the Names and Sirnames of all such persons that are Married, Christned or Buryed within your Parish, together with the names and Sirnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christned? Are therein expressed the Day, Moneth and Year of all such Marriages, Christnings and Burials? and is the Coppy there-

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of written in parchment within one Moneth after the Twenty fifth of March yearly brought into the Bishops Registry?

VII. HAVE you another Book of paper to write down the Churchwardens accounts, and the names and Licenses of strangers as are admitted to preach in your Parish Church or Chappel?

VIII. HAVE you a strong Chest with Locks and Keyes wherein to keep the forsaid Books, with all other Utensils and Furniture of your Church in safe custody: And have you a convenient Bier for the Buriall of the Dead?

IX. IS your Churchyard set apart for Buriall of the Dead, sufficiently mounded and fenced with Walls, Rails, or Pales, and decently kept from Annoyance of Swine, and other Cattle; and are your Dead buryed there, or within the Church?

SECT. 3. Concerning the Houses, Gleabs and Tythes belonging to Churches and Ministers.

I. IS the House of your Parson, or Vicar, with all Outhouses belonging to it kept in sufficient reparation, or have any part thereof been pulled down by any private person? Hath any man encroached upon any Garden, Orchard, Yard, Close belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarige, cut any Trees growing thereon?

II. HAVE you a true Terrier of all the Glebe Lands, Gardens, Orchards or Tenements belonging to your Parsonage, or Vicarige? and is this Terrier kept in your common Chest, and a copy of it delivered into the Bishops Registry?

III. HAVE any of the Ancient Glebe Lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarige been taken away, or exchanged

exchanged for others without the free consent and license of the Ordinary? if so, declare, when, and by whom; as also what Tythes, Rates, portions of Tythes, Pensions, or yearly profits are detained from your Minister.

SECT. 4. Concerning the PARISHIONERS.

I. IS there in your Parish any person known or reputed to be an Heretick or Schismatick? Any Papist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker, or other Sectary, that refuse to come to Divine Service established in the Church of England? Is there any that impugn the Kings Supremacy in Causes Ecclesiasticall, or the Book of Common-prayer?

II. IS there in your parish any that lyes under a fame or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Incest, or Fornication? Any that harbour such incontinent persons? Are there any common Drunkards, common Swearers, any Blasphemers of Gods Word, or his holy Name? Any Deboist persons? any Sowers of Rebellon, Sedition, Faction and Discord among Neighbours within your parish?

III. HAVE you any in your parish that prophane and mispend the Lords Day by opening their Shops, trading, buying, or selling? Do any Vintners, Victuallers, Alehousekeepers suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses on that Day? Declare the names of the Offendors herein.

IV. DO all the persons of your parish, having no lawful impediment, duely resort to your Church or Chappel upon Sundayes and Holydayes? Do they there abide quietly with Reverence, Order and Decency during all the time of Divine Service? Or is there any in your parish that forbear

forbear to partake of the Common-Prayer? present the names of the faulty.

V. DOTH every person coming to Church reverently uncover his head, and so continue all the time of Divine Service, kneel at the receiving the Communion, and at prayers, stand up at the Creed, and when the Gospel is read?

VI. ARE there any in your parish that refuse or wilfully neglect to send their Infant-children to be baptized in the Church, unless in case of necessity or urgent danger? or do they send them to be baptized in other parishes, or after other form then is appointed? Or are there any Infants, or more aged persons in your parish Unbaptized?

VII. ARE there any in your parish, that on Sundayes, or Holydayes do not send their children and servants to the Church to be Catechized by the Minister?

VIII. ARE there any in your parish who being fifteen years of age, and well instructed and prepared, do not receive the Lords Supper frequently kneeling from the hand of the Minister? Or is there any that repair for it to other parishes? Or do any of other parishes, forsaking their own Church, repair to yours for that end?

IX. ARE there any in your parish that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by due course of Law, do not dwell together as Man and Wife ought?

X. ARE there any married Women in your parish, who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick Thanksgiving in the Church? and when they repair to Church so to do, do they then, and there offer their accustomed Offerings?

XI. ARE there any in your parish, that refuse to pay their Easter-offerings to the Minister? or that refuse to pay the rate assessed upon them for the repair of your Church

or Chappell, or for Bread and Wine used in the Holy Communion? or for such Books, Ornaments and Utensils, as are requisite for the performance of Divine Offices there?

XII. DO any of your parish refuse to bury their Dead according to the Form and Order of the Church of England?

XIII. ARE there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your parish concealed, or not yet proved? or any goods of persons dying Intestate administred without due grant from the Ordinary?

XIV. DID any dying in your parish or elsewhere leave any Legacy to your Church, or to the poor, or to any other pious and charitable use? Declare what those Legacies were, and how they have been bestowed, or in whose hands they are detained?

XV. DO you know any persons that have presumed to brawle, fight, or quarrell, or strike one the other in your Church, Chappel, or Church-yard? if such, present their Names.

SECT. 5. Concerning Church-wardens and Sidemen.

I. ARE the Church-wardens of your parish yearly and duly chosen by the consent of your Minister and Parishioners? or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners, in defect of their joint consent?

II. HAVE the former and last Church-wardens given up their just accompts to the parish, and delibered up to the succeeding Church-wardens, the moneys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappell?

III. DO you against every Communion provide a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the advice and direction given you by your Minister for the number of Communicants?

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SECT. 6. Concerning Parish Clerks and Sextons.

I. HAVE you a sufficient Parish Clerk, that can perform his duty in Reading, and Answering, and Singing? and doth attend in all Divine Services? and is his wages duly paid him?

II. DOTH he or the Sexton, (if you have one) diligently lock and open your Church doors at due times? Doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean? Doth he toll and ring the Bells at the accustomed hours before Divine Service?

SECT. 7. Concerning Hospitals, Schools, and Schoolmasters.

I. IS there any Hospital, School, or Almshouse founded in your Parish? if so, who was the Founder, and what is the yearly Revenue? and whether is the yearly Stipend payed to the Schoolmaster?

II. DOTH any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish? Is he licensed and allowed thereto by the Bishop or Chancellor? Is your Schoolmaster of sonnd Religion, or good Life? Doth he teach his Schollars the Catechism set forth in the Common-Prayer Book? Doth he cause his Schollars upon Sundayes and Holydayes orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel? and see that they behave themselves quietly, and reverently all the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

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